**Part One: Life Graph Assignment** 

The purpose of a life graph is to reflect on the significant events in your life and display them for others to see. Your life graph will have a visual component and a written component. Follow the steps below and hand in every step of the assignment.

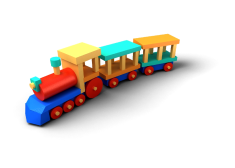
**Step One**: Make a concept web to brainstorm some significant events that have taken place in your life time. Please include your approximate age at the time of the event. You must include at least 15 events.

**Step Two:** Rank the events in your concept web based on whether it had a positive or negative influence on your life. Like a thermometer, +10 would be a very positive event, 0 would be neutral and -10 would be a very negative event. Give each event a ‘temperature’.

**Step Three:** Create your life graph. Use pencil to map out a rough copy first. Remember there is a visual component to this assignment, so you may want to add pictures or drawings to enhance its meaning. Please be aware of spelling and capitalization.

Evaluation:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | 5- Awesome! | 4-Very Good | 3-2 Keep Working | 1-0 Incomplete |
| Visual Impact | The graph is tidy and organized. It is also unique and eye catching. | The graph is tidy and organized. | Further development of visual impact is needed. | The graph is incomplete. |
| Mechanics | There are very few errors in spelling and capitalization. | There are common errors in spelling and capitalization. | There are frequent errors in spelling and capitalization. | The graph is incomplete. |
| Graphing Components | The graph includes straight lines and follows the proper rating scale. It contains at least 15 events. | The graph includes most of its components although some could be future developed. | Many aspects of the graph are missing. | The graph is incomplete. |

**Part Two: Memoir **

Using your life graph as a ‘launching point’, choose one significant event to expand into a written memoir. A memoir may be a new genre of writing for some students. Please visit our class ‘Wikispace’ to deepen your understanding of how to write a memoir. Memoirs are more than telling people something about yourself, but to emphasize the process of how you came to know it.

**Features of a Memoir:**

-They are almost always written in first person.

- The subject is usually commonplace (not a ‘superhero’ moment).

-It should be richly detailed. It doesn’t use excessive detail for the sake of it, but focuses on vivid, sensory imagery and significant detail. Details that set the tone, reveal emotions or illuminate the character.

- Details must be hitched to something larger: a key emotion that we all feel or a better understanding of your own leave.

-Thesis or meaning is implicit (unspoken), and emerges later in the piece. This meaning isn’t simple. It takes every line of the memoir to get at the meaning.

-It relies on memory, observation, and subjectivity over facts.

-It often shifts back and forth between ‘now´ and ‘then.’ If you write about something that happened to you when you were five years old, there are actual two characters: you at five and you now. Even if you don’t say, “looking back now, I think” keep us firmly in a child-like perspective.

**Memoir Requirements:**

-Length: 3-4 pages long (double spaced, typed)

-Proper use of writing mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc)

-Proper Formatting (MLA) including title

-Proof of writing development (ex. A rough copy or a graphic organizer, one peer editing sheet)

\*\*\*Interested in how your are being evaluated? You should be! Please check out the evaluation sheet on our class wikispace!\*\*\*